AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method operative to automatically exclude an unwanted page in an input stream of a printing system main print job from an output stream of the main print job, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a characteristic of a page indicative of an unwanted page;

monitoring the input stream to detect data representative of the characteristic;

identifying one or more pages of the ~~printing system~~main print job that contain data representative of the characteristic; and

removing the identified pages thereby excluding them from the main print job output stream.

2.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

notifying an operator in response to detecting data representative of the characteristic.

3.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

requesting permission from a user to remove the identified pages.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Canceled)

6.   . (Canceled)

7.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 12 wherein the step of ~~describing characteristics~~establishing the characteristic comprises describing ~~characteristics~~a characteristic of a non-blank separator sheet.

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 12 wherein the step of searching within input image data comprises using pattern recognition techniques to search for matching characteristics.

10.   (Canceled)

11.   (Currently Amended)   A method operative to semi-automatically exclude unwanted portions of a main job from a main job output stream of a printing system, the method comprising the steps of:

describing characteristics of the unwanted portions of the job;

searching within input image data for portions of the main job that have the described characteristics;

locating a portion of the input image data that has the described characteristics, thereby locating a potentially unwanted portion;

notifying an operator that the potentially unwanted portion has been located;

accepting one of an authorization and a prohibition from the operator to remove the potentially unwanted portion;

determining that the potentially unwanted portion is an unwanted portion if the authorization is accepted; and

removing the unwanted portion from a main job input stream, thereby excluding the unwanted portion from the main job output stream.

12.   (Currently Amended)   A method operative to automatically exclude unwanted portions of a main job from a main job output stream of a printing system, the method comprising:

describing characteristics of the unwanted portions of the main job;

searching within input image data for portions of the main job that have the described characteristics;

locating a portion of the main job input image data that has the described characteristics;

deleting the located portion from the main job input data to generate main job output data; and

delivering the main job output data to the output stream.

13. (Previously Presented) A printing system operative to automatically remove unwanted portions of main print job input image data, the printing system comprising:

a pattern detector operative to receive an arbitrary description of an unwanted portion of the main print job input image data, search for a portion of the main print job input image data that corresponds to the unwanted portion description, and relate information about a found portion that corresponds to the description; and

a portion deleter operative to receive information from the pattern detector regarding a location of the at least one unwanted portion of the main print job input image data and to remove the at least one unwanted portion of the main print job input image data to generate main print job output image data.

14. (Previously Presented) The printing system of claim 13 further comprising an image destination operative to receive the main print job output image data and at least one of, transmit the main print job output image data to another device and generate hard copy corresponding to the main print job output image data.

15. (Original) The printing system of claim 13 further comprising a default settings repository operative to store and make available to the pattern detector at least one of, a default unwanted portion description and processing procedure information.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18.   (Original)   The printing system of claim 14 wherein the image destination comprises a xerographic printer.

19.   (Original)   The printing system of claim 14 wherein the image destination comprises a facsimile modem.

20.   (Previously Presented)   A printing system operative to automatically exclude unwanted non-blank pages of a job from a main job output stream, the system comprising:

means for describing one or more characteristics of a non-blank page that is unwanted;

means for searching within main job input image data for portions of the job that have the described characteristics;

means for locating a page of the main job input image data that has the described characteristics;

means for deleting the located page from the main job input data to generate main job output data; and

means for delivering the output data to the output stream.

21.   (Previously Presented)   The printing system of claim 20 wherein the means for describing one or more characteristics of a non-blank page that is unwanted comprises:

means for describing text included on the unwanted non-blank page.